

## C L A I M S

1. Method for closing off at least one tunnel (2) 5

extending across the width of a folding curtain (1), after a strengthening rod (3) has been inserted into this tunnel (2), characterized in that a strengthening rod (3) is provided in the tunnel (2), comprising at least at one extremity a number of pointed projections (4), and in that the tunnel (2) is closed off by pricking the said projections (4) through the wall of the tunnel.

2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the 15

said projections (4) are movable against the force of a spring.

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in 20

that the said projections (4) are part of a terminal element (5), provided on the strengthening rod (3).

4. Method according to claim 3, characterized in that the 25

said terminal element (5) is carried out in the form of a sleeve (6) provided on the extremity of the strengthening rod (3).

5. Method according to claim 3 or 4, characterized in 30

that the terminal element (5) is provided with a coiled spring (7) in order to exert a spring force on the said projections.

6. Folding curtain (1) comprising at least one tunnel (2) 35

extending across the width of the curtain, which is provided with a strengthening rod (3), characterized

in that the said strengthening rod (3) comprises a number of pointed projections (4) at least at one extremity and in that the said projections (4) are pricking through the wall of the tunnel in order to 5 close off the tunnel (2).

7. Folding curtain (1) according to claim 6, characterized in that the said projections (4) are movable against a spring force.

10

8. Folding curtain (1) according to claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the said projections (4) are part of a terminal element (5) provided on the strengthening rod (3).

15

9. Folding curtain (1) according to claim 8, characterized in that the said terminal element (5) comprises a sleeve-shaped jacket (6) containing a coiled spring (7) and an element (8) provided with the 20 said pointed projections (4) and in that the element (8) is movable against the spring force of the coiled spring (7).

20

10. Folding curtain (1) according to claim 9, characterized in that the element (8) is provided with 25 pointed projections (4) made of synthetic material.

25

11. Strengthening rod (3) for a folding curtain, characterized in that at least one extremity of the 30 said strengthening rod (3) comprises a number of pointed projections (4) and in that the said projections (4) are provided to prick through the wall of the tunnel, in order to close off the tunnel (2).

12. Strengthening rod (3) according to claim 11, characterized in that the said projections (4) are part of a terminal element (5) provided on the strengthening rod (3).

5

13. Strengthening rod (3) according to claim 11 or 12, characterized in that the said strengthening rod (3) comprises a sleeve-shaped jacket containing a coiled spring (7) and an element (8) provided with the said pointed projections (4) and in that the element (8) is movable against the spring force of the coiled spring (7) from a first to a second position, the element (8) in its second position being situated within the space surrounded by the sleeve-shaped jacket.

10

14. Strengthening rod (3) according to any one of the claims 11 up to and including 13, characterized in that the said strengthening rod (3) is provided in a folding curtain according to any one of the claims 6 up to and including 10.

15

20